

Customer 25280

Case 5113D

REMARKS

Claims 26 and 79 have been amended to moot the objections thereof. Claims 1, 3-35, 38, 40-49, 58-72, 77-79, 81-85, 88-97, 99, 100, 102-128, 130, 131, 134-136, 138, 141, and 151 are pending.

Applicants have amended claims 26 and 79 to obviate the respective objections of each of claims 26 and 79. Claim 26 has been amended to call for a backing material bonded to the lower surface of the rebond foam layer via flame lamination. Claim 79 has been amended to call for a hot melt adhesive.

Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 USC 103(a) rejection of the pending claims over Ito et al. (JP 07-275107) in view of Higgins (4,522,857). Neither Ito et al. nor Higgins '857 appear to disclose flame lamination, the use of a flame laminated composite, or the like.

The present invention is directed to a carpet tile including a flame laminated backing composite. In a very particular embodiment (see, for example, claims 49 and 88, and Figures 31 and 32), the backing composite has a glass layer flame laminated to one side and a felt layer flame laminated to the other side.

Customer 25280

Case 51130

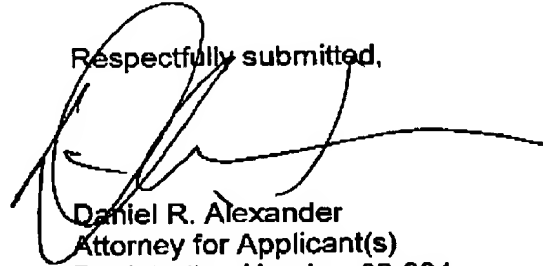
Conclusion

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully believe the present application to be in condition for allowance. In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicants hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

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Respectfully submitted,



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